



HF Happenings 383

December 2009

HF Happenings via Yahoo Groups HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

South African Radio League Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



IARU Committee paper available to view

The Interim Meeting of the IARU Region 1 HF Committee and the VHF, UHF and Microwave Committee will take place over the period 19 to 21 February 2010 in Vienna, Austria.

The IARU Region 1 website now has the full set of both HF and VHF/microwave papers for the meeting from the various National Societies. Check out www.iaru-r1.org for details. [RSGB News]

ARRL'S Logbook of the World Reaches New Milestones

To date, more than 30,000 hams have entered more than 250 million QSOs into Logbook of The World (LoTW), the ARRL's online logging program. At this time last year, 22,959 hams had made just more than 192 million QSOs, marking an upswing in both users and QSOs of about 24 percent.

The LoTW system is a repository of log records submitted by amateurs from around the world. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. While US amateurs do not need to be members of the ARRL to use LoTW, only members can use LoTW to apply for ARRL awards, such as DXCC and Worked All States (WAS). Some awards, like the Triple Play Award, only use LoTW credits instead of traditional QSL cards (foreign amateurs do not need to be ARRL members to apply for ARRL awards).

Read more at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/03/11229/?nc=1>

ICOM Confirms IC-706 Production Has Not Ceased

Contrary to Internet rumours production of the popular IC 706 Mark 2G has not ceased. The erroneous report of the radio's demise came in a Wireless Institute of Australia news report that said that the 706 was no longer being made and that Navcom Electronics that there are only 14 units currently held in stock in Australia.

While that might be the case down-under, Amateur Radio Newsline has received word from Icom America that the decision to stop selling the IC - 706 was likely a one made by Icom Australia. On this side of the Pacific Icom America says that the IC - 706 MK 2G will continue in the Icom America product line.

The original IC-706 was introduced over a dozen years ago and quickly developed what might best be described as a cult following. The radio was not all that much bigger than a dual-band FM transceiver of that era, but it packed an amazingly sensitive all band receiver and pow-

December

ZS10WCS operated by the East Rand ARC

1 World Aids day
5/6 ARRL 160 metre contest
6 PEARS HF QSO Party
7 closing date SARL HF Field Day logs
11 Schools close
12/13 ARRL 10 metre contest
16 Day of Reconciliation
19/20 Croatian CW contest
25 Christmas Day
26 Family Day
26/27 Stew Perry Top band contest
31 End of 2009 CQ DX Marathon





erful transmitter ham band transmitter into a relatively tiny package measuring only 6.56" x 2.28" x 7.88".

Over the years, the IC-706 has seen many upgrades. The latest version is the Mark II G, which adds many new features and capabilities not found in the previous 706 and 706 Mk II versions including the UT-106 DSP module as a standard feature. Many hams called it the perfect mobile and portable station and stayed with it even after rival manufacturers brought out their own tiny all band transceivers with similar or even more advanced features. It is also a radio with one of the highest resale values on the used equipment market.

Also included in the WIA story was a claim that Icom was instituting a five-year warranty on all of its products. Well that is true only if you live in Australia. According to Icom America, That is an Icom Australia only project. No other Icom distributor is offering a 5-year warranty. (ARNewsline™)

Severe Weather Net

Up to about 2 years ago, Hamnet ran a daily weather net on HF - particularly in the 40 m band, to gather information of weather conditions around South Africa. It worked well, until propagation conditions deteriorated to such an extent that the "service," if one could call it that, had to be curtailed.

Johan, ZS1I, in Mossel Bay has come up with a more novel idea of rejuvenating this service, but in a different way. Johan has created a platform by which any amateur radio operator in South Africa can contribute to this "Severe Weather Net" due to different and various suggestions discussed on the Forum pages.

What it boils down to is this; you can become an "observer" in your area, and it does not require much effort - only critical observation of your local or current weather condition.

You can report these conditions to Johan via two routes - via an SMS to 076 251 3482 or via e-mail to sawois05@gmail.com

The system is quite elaborate so we suggest you visit Johan's web site as mentioned lower down and get acquainted with Johan's requirements and how you can participate in contributing to our severe weather conditions.

For up to date weather and disaster information in South Africa please check the following web site www.sawetherobserver.blogspot.com This is a unique website designed for South African weather and disaster conditions.

What is in a Call Sign?

I received an e-mail from Edwin, ZL1BBO, and it got me thinking about these radio amateurs who forget the ZU, ZR or ZS part of the call signs - yes, listen out on 2, 40 and 80 metres, you will find them there.

"Hi All,

It is a very sad day for me!!

I have just sent in the documentation to cancel my call sign ZS5BBO. After receiving ZR5E in 1994 after writing my RAE I went on to get my ZS call sign in 1995 passing the 12 word a minute Morse Code test with Mal and Burt, after which I took out the call sign ZS5BBO.





I enjoyed this call sign over the years and became known in many parts of the world on the HF bands as ZS5 BLACK BOX OPERATOR. Yes a black box operator indeed but very passionate about working DX and contests.

During this time, I also had the fortune of being the Chairman of the HARC and the highlight was when our Club hosted the FT5XO team on their way to Kerguelen Island in 2005.

Also while holding this call sign I travelled to the USA and attended the International DX Convention in Visalia and became at the time the only member of the SCDXC from South Africa.

This call sign has been part of me for all these years and today it is given up. It has given me so much fun and made it possible to talk to and meet so many interesting hams around the world.

I am sure this call sign will become available again once ICASA has done the necessary paperwork. I would like to ask that if anyone ever takes over this call sign to please let me know.

So for now I will sign one more time and say 73 and good DX to all my friends in Durban and around the world.

This is ZS5BBO, the one and only ZS5 BLACK BOX OPERATOR closing down. 73, Edwin, ZL1BBO."

Edwin, my logbook shows many QSOs with ZS5BBO over the years, many in the winter with Nico, ZS2N, in Barkly East and I here in Bloemfontein freezing our butts off while you sit in a T-shirt and shorts looking out over Durban harbour from your shack.

2009 CQ DX Marathon

(Less than a month to go!) John, K9EL, Program Manager for the CQ DX Marathon, wants to remind everyone that there is less than a month left in the 2009 version of CQ Magazine's annual DX Marathon! Each year from 1 January to 31 December, CQ Magazine sponsors a challenge to work as many countries and zones as possible in the calendar year. This year's edition ends soon, but there is still time to fill in some missing countries and zones. Last year's winner was determined by a QSO made on 21 December, so keep working DX! For complete rules and submission information, please see their Web site at <http://www.dxmarathon.com>

DX from Africa

Angola, D2 (Update). Paulo, CT1ITZ, active as D2CQ, will be in Porto Amboim until 27 December. Activity will be on 80 - 10 metres SSB only. Most of his activity this past week has been on 20 and 17 metres between 08:30 - 17:30 UTC. He is using an Icom 706 and a Windom antenna. QSL via CT1IUA, direct QSL, please send 2 USDs or one new IRC (ending 2013). QSLs without enough postage will go via Bureau.

Gambia, C5. Eric, SM1TDE, plans an operation from Gambia from 10 to 31 December. More details are not known yet.

Sudan, ST. Robert is active as ST2AR and is generally active on 20 to 10 metres mostly during the weekends. QSL via S53R.

Egypt, SU. Mohammed, SU1KM has been active on 30 metres using RTTY around 17:40 UTC and then using CW around 18:00 to 19:00 UTC. QSL direct.





Madagascar, 5R. Sam, G4OHX will be active as 5R8HX (call sign just recently confirmed) from Madagascar (IOTA AF-013 and WLOTA LH-2455) between 28 December 2009 and 3 January 2010. Activity will be mainly CW. He will also be active from South Africa as ZS5/G4OHX from 4 - 17 January 2010. QSL via his home call sign direct only.

Tanzania, 5I. Igor, UA3DJY, is currently in Dar es Salaam, and plans to operate from the DIT Communications Club station, 5I3A, until 15 December. Over the past weekend, Igor has been very active on 17 metres CW between 07:30 - 14:00 UTC. QSL via RK3AOL.

African Tour. Peter, HA3AUI, is once again heading to Africa in early 2010. Look for him to be active as 6W2SC from Senegal and J5UAP from Guinea-Bissau between 15 January and 31 March. Peter used these call signs once before. His stays in Senegal (6W) will be very near to the border of Guinea-Bissau (J5), and he plans to make regular trips to J5-land for the beautiful beaches there (plans to also operate from there). Using his Elecraft K3 with 500 w into a 5-Band Spiderbeam and verticals, Peter's activity will be on 160 - 10 metres, mainly on the digital modes, but he will use the other modes on request. QSL direct via HA3AUI. Visit his Web site at <http://cqafrika.net>

Special Event Stations

Look for special event station 5P15COP from Sjaelland Island (EU-029, DIA SJ-001) to be active from 7 to 18 December 2009. Activity is taking place during the big United Nations "Copenhagen Climate Change Conference" (en.cop15.dk/). Operators would like to invite all radio amateurs worldwide to show their concern and care about the environment and climate, by contacting this special event station. Operations will be on 160 - 6 metres using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via OZ5BAL, direct or by the bureau. For more details about the project, QSL card and awards available, please visit: www.5p15cop.dk/news.php/

Tunisia, 3V10. The Radio Club Station of Tunisian Scouts (3V8ST) in the CAST will commemorate their 10th anniversary by activating special event station 3V10A from the headquarters of Tunisian Scouts in Tunis Mahrajens (Tunisia's capital city). Activity will last until 31 December. QSL via Amateur Radio Club Station Tunis, PO Box 339, 1082, Tunisia.

Germany. The special event station DR09ANT of the "Worldwide Antarctic Program" with the WAP number 156 and special DOK IPY, is active on all modes on all bands for the last time from 14 to 31 December. QSLs will be sent via bureau automatically.

Willis Island, VK9W

David A. Burton, VK9WBM, is working at the meteorological station on Willis Island (OC-007) until the middle of June 2010. He plans to show up on HF and 6 m during his little spare time. QSL via VK4DMC.

Pirate





Algeria. Yves, 7X0MT says do not send cards and money. The 7X2ARA call sign was spotted a lot especially on 17 m CW on 26 and 27 November. There was no traffic under this call sign on the indicated bands and modes.

QSL Survey

Don, W5FKX, says he is conducting an informal survey of QSLing methods and would very much appreciate your input. Please respond directly to Don at w5fkx@cox.net

1. Do you use the Logbook of the World (LOTW)? If not, what has kept you from using it?
2. Do you use the eQSL service? If not, what has kept you from using it?
3. Do you use the QSL Bureau system? If not, what has kept you from using it?
4. Do you send out direct QSLs? If not, what has kept you from doing so?
5. What is the approximate percentages of your QSLs received via:

LOTW

eQSL

Bureau

Direct

Thanks very much for your participation. Any additional comments are welcome. 73, Don, W5FKX

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 7 to 14 December 2009

ARS Spartan Sprint
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 8 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Skinny; Tubby

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and Power

Work stations: Once per band

Submit logs by: 10 December 2009

E-mail logs to:

[spartansprint\[at\]yahoo\[dot\]com](mailto:spartansprint[at]yahoo[dot]com)

Mail logs to: none

Find rules at:

<http://arsqrp.pbwiki.com/SpartanandSprints>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
01:30 - 03:30 UTC 9 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40 and 20 m

Classes: none

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC No or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Key Type Mult: 2x if straight key, 1.5x if bug, 1x if other

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult

Submit logs by: 13 December 2009

E-mail logs to: [naqcc33\[at\]alltel\[dot\]net](mailto:naqcc33[at]alltel[dot]net)

Post log summary at:

http://www.usatek.net/~yoel/sprint_submit_log.html

Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/sprint200912.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 December

Mode: see rules

Bands: see rules

Classes: none





Exchange: see rules

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 13 December 2009

E-mail logs to: none

Post log summary at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>

Mail logs to: none

Find rules at:

<http://www.nccsprint.com/rules.html>

ARRL 10-Metre Contest

00:00 UTC 12 December to 24:00 UTC 13 December

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Single Op QRP, Low or High - CW, Phone or Mixed; Multi-Single

Max operating hours: 36 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RS(T) and State or Province; DX: RS(T) and Serial No; MM: RS(T) and ITU Region; US Novice/Tech Plus sign call with /N or /T on CW

QSO Points: Phone QSO: 2 points; CW QSO: 4 points; Novice/Tech Plus CW QSO: 8 points

Multipliers: States and DC, once per mode; Provinces/Territories, once per mode; DXCC Countries, once per mode; ITU Regions MM only, once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x State mults and Province mults and DXCC mults and ITU mults

Submit logs by: 12 January 2010

E-mail logs to: 10meter[at]arrl[dot]org

Mail logs to: 10 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-meters.html>

Feld Hell Sprint

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 12 December

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: none

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: see rules

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: see rules

Bonus Points: see rules

Multipliers: Each state, province and country once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults and bonus points

Submit logs by: 1 January 2010

E-mail logs to: none

Post log summary at:

<http://www.emailmeform.com/fid.php?formid=202397>

Mail logs to: none

Find rules at:

<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests>

MDXA PSK DeathMatch

00:00 UTC 12 December to 24:00 UTC 13 December

Mode: PSK31, PSK63

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 m

Classes: Single Op Single Transmitter 50 - 75 W; Single Op Single Transmitter 25 - 50 W; Single Op Single Transmitter 5 W QRP

Max operating hours: 48 hours

Exchange: Name and state/country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO on 80 - 10 m; 2 points per QSO on 160 m or 6 m; 5 points per QSO with AC4M

Multipliers: States/provinces, once per PSK mode per band; DXCC countries, once per PSK mode per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 24 December 2009

E-mail log summary to:

chucklem[at]comcast[dot]net

Mail logs to: none

Find rules at:

<http://www.mdxal.org/deathmatch.html>

International Naval Contest

16:00 UTC 12 December to 15:59 UTC 13 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m





Classes: Single Op All Band CW/SSB/Mixed; Naval Club Station; non-Naval; SWL

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Exchange: Naval Club Member: RS(T), Club and Member No; non-Naval Club Member: RS(T) and Serial No

QSO Points: Naval Club Members: 10 points; non-Naval Club Members: 1 point

Multipliers: Naval Club Members, once regardless of band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 February 2010

E-mail logs to:

inc_contest2009[at]nra[dot]pt

Mail logs to: NRA - Nucleo Radioamadores da Armada, Attn: Contest Manager of NRA, International Naval Contest, ETNA - Base Naval de Lisboa - ALFEIT, 2810-001 Almada, Portugal

Find rules at:

<http://www.marinefunker.de/eng/show.php3?pos=15>

SKCC Weekend Sprint

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 13 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 m

Classes: none

Exchange: RST, Name, state, province or country and SKCC No or "NONE"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: see rules

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults and bonus points

Submit logs by: 18 December 2009

Post log summary at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/wes-submit.html>

Mail logs to: none

Find rules at:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/>

CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run

21:00 - 22:59 UTC 13 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: W: single element wire antenna; V: vertical antenna; B: multi-element arrays/beams; P: portable

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, Antenna Class and CQC Member No or power

Work stations: Same station up to 3 times, at least 30 minutes between QSOs

QSO Points: 1st QSO with station: 3 points; 2nd QSO with same station: 2 points; 3rd QSO with same station: 1 point; Bonus: 100 points for first QSO with WOCQC

Multipliers: Each state, province, country, CQC member once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x state mults and province mults and country mults x CQC members

Submit logs by: 12 January 2010

E-mail logs to: kiOrb[at]arrl[dot]net

Mail logs to: none

Find rules at:

<http://www.cqc.org/contests/snow2009.htm>

Next Week's Contests

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 December

AGB-Party Contest, 21:00 - 24:00 UTC 18 December

Russian 160-Meter Contest, 21:00 - 23:00 UTC 18 December

OK DX RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 19 December

RAC Winter Contest, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 19 December

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 19 December to 23:59 UTC 3 January

Croatian CW Contest, 14:00 UTC 19 December to 14:00 UTC 20 December

ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint, 20:00 - 24:00 UTC 20 December

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 21 December





2009 ARRL 10-Metre Contest Rules

Object: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10-metre band.

Date and Contest Period: Second full weekend of December. Starts 00:00 UTC Saturday; ends 23:59 UTC Sunday (12 - 13 December 2009). All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period. Listening time counts as operating time.

Entry Categories:

Single Operator: (9 categories)

QRP - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only; CW only

Low Power - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only; CW only

High Power - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only; CW only

Multi-operator, Single Transmitter, mixed mode (only) - Includes single operators using packet or spotting assistance.

Contest Exchange:

W/VE stations (including Hawaii and Alaska) send signal report and state or province (District of Columbia stations send signal report and DC).

DX stations (including KH2, KP4, etc) transmit signal report and sequential serial number starting with 001.

Maritime mobile stations send signal report and ITU Region (R1, R2 or R3).

Scoring:

QSO points: Two (2) points for each complete two-way phone QSO; Four (4) points for each two-way CW QSO.

Multipliers: (per mode, phone and CW): Each US state and the District of Columbia. Canada [NB (VE1, 9), NS (VE1), QC (VE2), ON (VE3), MB (VE4), SK (VE5), AB (VE6), BC (VE7), NWT (VE8), NF, (VO1), LB (VO2)], YT (VY1), PEI (VY2) NU (VYØ); DXCC countries (except US and Canada). KH6 and KL7 participate and count as US states and send HI or AK as that part of their exchange; ITU regions (maritime mobiles only).

Final Score: Multiply QSO points by total multipliers (the sum of states/VE provinces/DXCC countries/ITU regions per mode). Example: KA1RWY works 2 235 stations including 1 305 phone QSOs, and 930 CW QSOs, for a total of 6 330 QSO points. She works 49 states, 10 Canadian call areas, 23 DXCC entities and a maritime mobile station in Region 2 on Phone and 30 states, 8 Canadian call areas, and 19 DXCC countries on CW for a total multiplier of 140. Final score = 6 330 (QSO points) X 140 (multiplier) = 886 200 points.

Miscellaneous:

Single operator mixed-mode and multi-operator stations may work stations once on CW and once on SSB.

Your call sign must indicate your DXCC country if competing as DX. (N6TR in Oregon does not send N6TR/7, but K1NO in Puerto Rico must send K1NO/KP4).

All entrants may transmit only one signal on the air at any given time.

All CW contacts must take place below 28.3 MHz.

Awards: Certificates will be awarded to: the highest-scoring single-operator station (in each category) from each ARRL/RAC Section and DXCC country; Top multi-operator entries in each





ARRL Division, Canada and each continent; Additional certificates will be awarded as participation warrants.

Miscellaneous:

All electronic logs (computer generated) must submit an ASCII text file of the log information in Cabrillo file format. Paper printouts of the electronic file are not acceptable substitutes.

Hand-written paper logs are acceptable submissions.

All entries must be emailed or postmarked by 00:00 UTC Wednesday 13 January 2010.

Email entries only to: 10meter@arrl.org. Submissions require Cabrillo log file with all required information (including exchange sent, category entered, power and ARRL/RAC section - see General Rules for specific file format).

Electronic files not in Cabrillo file format may be designated as checklogs.

Paper entries should be mailed to 10-Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Paper entries must be submitted on current ARRL entry forms or an acceptable facsimile.

Forms are available for downloading at the Contest Branch Homepage at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>

Forms are available for an SASE sent to the Contest Branch.

Logs may be submitted via the web applet at www.b4h.net/cabforms

See "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" and "General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands below 30 MHz (HF)" on the ARRL Web.

General queries should be directed to the Contest Branch at contests@arrl.org or by calling (860) 594-0232.

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, Q-News, the RSGB News, Maurice, F5NQL, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

